

The War Fifty Years Ago

Fort Donelson, Tennessee, Bombarded and Captured. The Federal Fleet of Ironclads Beaten Off by the Guns of the Fort—The Confederates Sally Out of Their Works and Fight For a Road of Escape—A Brilliant Charge Led by General Lew Wallace and General C. F. Smith Compels Them to Return to the Fort—Division in the Confederate Councils—Two Commanders Abandon the Post.

By Captain GEORGE F. KILMER, Late U. S. V.

FIGHTING at Fort Donelson, Tennessee, began fifty years ago Feb. 13 with the attack of the Federal warships upon the Confederate water batteries. It ended on the 15th with a brilliant charge by Federal infantry which decided the day. The fort stood on high ground, some of it 100 feet above the river, and covered about 100 acres. Upon each flank of the attacking army's approach there was a creek filled with backwater. Across the gap between the two streams General U. S. Grant deployed his force of over 27,000 men in three divisions. General J. A. McClernand held the right with one division, General Lew Wallace the center and General C. F. Smith the left.

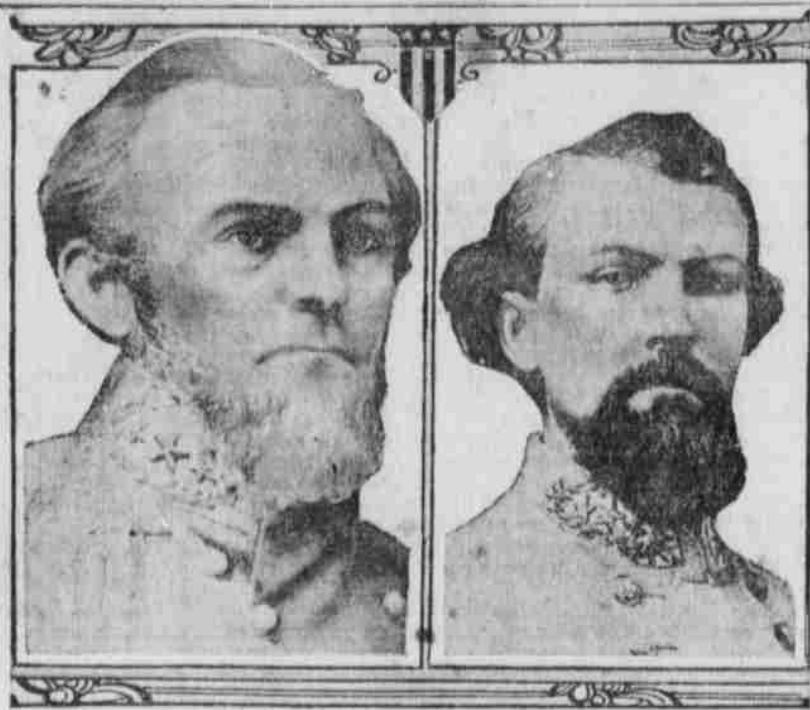
The Federal navy under Flag Officer A. H. Foote was counted upon to repeat at Donelson its effective work at Fort Henry on the 6th. Four ironclads were on hand, the Carondelet, St. Louis (flagship), Louisville and Pittsburgh. The army got in position before the works on the 12th of February, and on the 13th the Carondelet opened the bombardment from the safe berth of two and a half miles. Only one of the 200 shots fired damaged the fort. It was next to the last shot fired that day and entered an embrasure, disabling one gun and killing the Confederate chief of artillery, Captain Dixon. One shot pierced the Carondelet, but did little damage. On the 14th the ships steamed up to within 400 yards, and the combatants on both sides were bent upon a test of guns and mettle. The onslaught by Foote's guns was terrific, and the gunners in the water batteries of the fort began to desert their pieces. Then in an instant all was changed. A solid shot tore through the pilot house of the St. Louis, killing the pilot and destroying the wheel. Flag Officer Foote was wounded by the side of the pilot. Another shot wounded the pilot of the Louisville and cut the tiller ropes.

Ironclads Put Out of the Fight.

Both injured ships dropped out of the fight, covered by the Carondelet and Pittsburgh. The Pittsburgh soon turned about, badly cut up, and the Carondelet faced the batteries alone for a time.

The highest gun of the enemy's water battery was in charge of a boy of

1670 sort. Reaching the abatis in front of the Confederate works with his center brigade, he searched out a path through the entanglement, keeping his cap on the point of his uplifted sword in full view of the men. After passing the barrier he rode boldly up the ascent, followed by all who had lived through the terrible volleys which greeted his column from the fort and from the rifle pits in front.



GENERAL G. J. PILLOW, C. S. A., LEADER WHO ESCAPED FROM THE DOOMED FORT, AND COLONEL N. B. FORREST, C. S. A., WHO LED OUT 600 CAVALRY.

He captured the outer lines of pits and held on in the face of a Confederate division which attempted to beat him off. Under the cover of Smith's charge up to the fort Lew Wallace sent forward the captured Charlotte road the demobilized Colonel Morgan L. Smith. There were but two regiments in the column, the Eleventh Indiana, known as "Wallace's zouaves," and the Eighth Missouri. Both regiments had been trained as skirmishers. After explaining to the men the desperate nature of the task Wallace told them to be governed by circumstances. His words were drowned by their cheers and cries of "Forward, forward!"

As the skirmishers advanced up the slope the Confederates opened from a forest in front a terrible rifle fusillade. The zouaves and Missourians spread their line until it covered the whole battle front. Volleys were fired over their heads into the main line of battle. Knowing the field of every tree and rock, often antagonistic took shelter behind the same object. Upon hearing the crest Wallace's men began firing steadily, and before the supports got well engaged the Confederates fell back to their intrenchments. Just then an order from Grant reached Wallace to suspend the attack; but, believing he had the wedge well in, he ignored the order and pushed the skirmishers forward to the Charlotte road again, cutting off the way of escape. His men bivouacked within 150 rods of the enemy's guns, lying on their arms ready for the expected counter assault. Inside the walls of Fort Donelson there was gloom the night of Feb. 15. The Confederates had been beaten in battle that day and were hemmed in on all sides. They had few boats plying the river flowing past the fort, and Grant's troops had closed the only road of escape on land. The chieftains, General J. B. Floyd, General G. J. Pillow and General S. B. Buckner, met in council of war. Various accounts of the scene have been given. Colonel N. B. Forrest, the noted cavalry leader, was present.

Confederate Leaders Disagree.

Colonel Forrest was full of fight. He would not surrender and told Floyd that he would cut a path through the Federal lines at any point Floyd would designate, form a line of cavalry around the place of exit and keep the Federal soldiers back until the escaping garrison had passed through. The council could not agree upon a mode of action. Floyd decided to give it up, turned the command over to Pillow and took his own brigade out by boats. Pillow went away, leaving Buckner to share the hopeless fate of the garrison. Forrest said that he would go out if it was only to save one man. A creek with swampy borders extended from the river close to the fort along the front of Grant's lines on the flank. Forrest told his men of this swamp and gave them their choice to ford it or stay and be taken prisoners in the morning. About 500 of his Tennessee troops agreed to follow their leader wherever he went, and they escaped by riding through the swamp with the water reaching their saddle skirts.

Unconditional Surrender Demanded.

Grant intended to push the fight on the morning of the 16th and capture the fort by storm if it did not haul down the flag. It was in this spirit that he received before daylight the 15th a letter from General Buckner, written after Floyd and Pillow had abandoned him to his fate. The letter

asked for an armistice until 12 o'clock noon. Buckner had said at the council of war before he wrote to Grant that the troops of the garrison in Donelson had no fight in them. Some were already helpless from the cold. Grant's reply to the note was just suited to the temper of things in Donelson. It was as follows:

Headquarters Army in the Field, Camp Near Donelson, Feb. 15, 1862. General S. B. Buckner, Confederate Army: Sir—Yours of this date proposing an armistice and appointment of commissioners to settle upon terms of capitulation is just received. No terms except an unconditional surrender can be accepted. I propose to move immediately upon your works.

I am, sir, very respectfully your obedient servant, U. S. GRANT, Brigadier General.

Meanwhile Buckner had sent notice to his troops on the front line that he had made a proposition to the enemy to surrender the fort and asked them to notify the Federal troops in front in order to stop further fighting. White flags appeared all along the rifle pits, but none on the fort itself. To Grant's message he replied that he was compelled by circumstances to accept the "ungenerous and unchivalrous terms."



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proposed. On receiving this second letter Grant mounted his horse and rode along the lines toward the little village of Dover, where the Confederate headquarters were located. Firing had ceased on both sides, and on reaching the Confederate outposts in front of Dover Grant was not challenged. He continued on to the little two-story, unpainted tavern which has become historic as the scene of the famous surrender and was surprised to find that General Lew Wallace was already in consultation with his old enemy, Buckner.

Wallace commanded the Federal troops nearest to Dover and had had his soldiers astride before the break of day, intending to charge the Confederate breastworks as soon as it became light enough to maneuver. The regiments were forming for the purpose when a bugle blast across the lines announced the approach of a flag of truce. The truce officer stated that Buckner had decided to surrender the fort and garrison, numbering 12,000 to 15,000 men, and asked that there be no more firing. Wallace gave orders to his brigade commanders to advance and take



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possession of the enemy's works and himself rode with the Confederate to Buckner's quarters.

Wallace sent his name in to the Confederate chieftain, who recognized in him an acquaintance and ordered the sentinel to admit him. After a general handshake between the Federal and the Confederate leader and staff all sat down to a breakfast of corn bread and coffee. During the meal Grant arrived and at once entered into friendly conversation with Buckner, whom he had known at West Point and in the regular army before the war.

Requiescat. "There goes that poor old joke," remarked Mr. Paraglyph. "He's on his way to his last resting place." "Mercy!" exclaimed Mr. Verso. "Where's he going?" "Into a theater program,"—Satire.

Moderation Enjoined. "It's all right to save money, but don't squeeze it."

Not Much Danger. She—Some men are killed by kindness.

No—Yes, about one in every ten billions.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

ROOSEVELT GIVES POLITICAL CREED

Plain Answers to Questions as to His Principles.

JUST WHERE HE STANDS

In an Editorial in the March 30 issue of The Outlook, Theodore Roosevelt sets forth "A Short Political Creed" in the Form of Questions and Answers, as follows:

A good friend of mine who has been asked many questions about the political philosophy which I endeavored to interpret and formulate in my Columbus speech has put these questions in the form of a short catechism; and in answering them I have endeavored to outline the philosophy.

What is the aim for which political Progressives are striving?

The promotion of genuine popular government in America, the defense of human rights, and the establishment of social and industrial justice, so that every force in the community may be directed towards securing for the average man and average woman a higher and better and fuller life in the things of the body no less than those of the mind and soul.

Do you believe that the pursuit of this aim requires the adoption of new and radical principles?

No. I believe it requires a new and radical application of the old principles of justice and common honesty, which are as eternal as life itself. New methods and new machinery are needed for carrying these principles into our national existence; and also a broader sympathy, so that our justice may be generous and human, and not merely legalistic.

Do you believe in a short ballot?

I do. I consider it one of the most important methods to be adopted. By the "short ballot" I mean the principle of electing few men to important offices and making more administrative offices appointive. This is the method that is pursued in our Federal government. The people have nothing whatever to fear from giving any public servant power so long as they retain their own power to hold him accountable to them. You will get best service where you elect only a few men, each of whom has his definite duties and responsibilities, and is obliged to work in the open so that the people know who he is and what he does.

Do you believe in direct primaries?

I do. In the state the primary should be of the simplest form (consistent with preventing fraud) that will enable each individual voter to act directly on the nomination of elective officers; in the nation presidential primaries should be so framed that the voters may choose their delegates to the national conventions, and at the same time express their preference for nominees for the presidency. At the present moment our political machines are using their power to defraud the people out of their right to make nominations.

Do you believe in the election of United States senators by the people?

I do. I think the people are just as competent to elect United States senators directly as they are to elect governors or representatives in congress or state legislatures.

Do you believe in the initiative or referendum?

Yes, under certain definite limitations. Action by the initiative or referendum ought not to be the normal way of legislation; I think the legislature should be given an entirely free hand. But I believe the people should have the power to reverse or supplement the work of the legislature, whenever it becomes necessary.

Do you believe in the recall?

I believe the people should be provided with the means of recalling or re-electing important elective administrative officers, to be used only when there is a widespread and genuine public feeling for such a recall among a majority of the voters. I believe that there is scant necessity for using it in connection with short-term elective officers.

Do you believe in the recall of judges?

I believe that the evils which have led to the very widespread proposal to apply the recall to judges are very real. I see no reason why the people, if they are competent to elect judges, are not also competent to re-elect them. I think the judiciary should be made clearly to understand that they represent justice for the whole people. Personally, and having in view the success of the Massachusetts system, I am at present inclined to believe that judges should be appointive. Then we can apply the principle of the recall to the appointive power. In addition, I would have the appointive judges removable; and, in feeling our way to the proper solution, I would try having this done by a majority vote of the two houses of the legislature, as may now be done under the Massachusetts law, whenever the people through their representatives feel that the needs of the people require such removal. But this is merely my preference; and, moreover, my prime concern is with the end, not the means. I wish to see good judges put on the bench and bad ones taken off it. Any system which in its actual workings accomplishes these two ends is a good system. I do not wish to use the recall if it is possible to avoid doing so; but I would far rather have recourse to the recall than continue the present system, which provides an ineffectual remedy that in practice never works, and provides no efficient way whatever for overruling judicial misconstruction of the constitution.

Do you believe in the "review of

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Judicial decisions" by state courts, and what do you mean by it?

I do. What I mean may be fully expressed by the phrase, "The right of the people to review certain judicial decisions which nullify laws demanded by the people in the exercise of the police or general welfare power on the ground that these laws are unconstitutional." This would amount to a simpler method of constraining or amending the judicial interpretation of the constitution wherever such interpretation becomes clearly adverse to human rights. I believe, as I have said over and over again, that when the highest court of a state differs from the legislature of that state on the question of the constitutionality of a law vitally affecting the conditions of life and labor among wage-earners, the people should have the right to determine in an election whether the constitution which they have framed was meant by them to permit such a law. This method cannot apply to questions as to the federal constitution; I have made this distinction clear in my Columbus speech. The jurisdiction of the United States Supreme court concerning the federal constitution must remain supreme over the whole people. The constitutions of the separate states are in daily process of making by the people of those states, and I would therefore vest in the people of each state the final authority as to what their state constitution should be. I would not make the people the final judge in legal questions between individuals, but I would make the people the final umpire in such a conflict as that above outlined between the legislature and the judiciary in any given state.

The personal differences between some of my opponents and myself are only incidents of a fundamental difference of view. My opponents believe, as many of the founders of our government believed, that the people as a whole have neither the capacity nor the training to decide questions of broad governmental policy. Many of our fathers thought that the people could not be trusted to elect presidents or senators and therefore devised the Electoral College, which we have abandoned, and the legislative method of electing senators, which we are abandoning. My opponents think that a special class, the legal class, is the proper one finally to determine questions of basic political philosophy; I believe that the ultimate authority rests in the people and must be exercised by the people. This of course does not mean that the people should not employ experts to do their work for them. For instance, having selected the president, the voters should give him full executive power; but if the voters decide that they want a parcels post, they should expect him to make, with loyalty to their decision, the best parcels post that can be made; and they will not expect him to decide for them as to whether they are to have a parcels post or not. In law, having framed the constitution and the statutes, they should choose the best judge that they can carry out the provisions of the constitution and the statutes; but if they decide that they want a workmen's compensation act, they ought to expect the judge to administer such an act, and not to determine whether a workmen's compensation act is good for them or not. It is none of the judge's business to say whether the people ought to wish and to have such an act; it is the people's business, and only theirs. If the people decide (as the Canadians have decided) that it is a true function of government to formulate and regulate the relations of organized capital and organized labor, including wages, hours, and conditions of work, they will not expect the judges—and the judges must not expect—to decide

that this is not a true function of government; and if the judges endeavor to assert their view as opposed to the people's view, the people ought in legal fashion to tell them they are mistaken, and, if the judges persist, remove them and get judges who will administer the law based upon the theory of government which the people in the exercise of their sober and deliberate judgment have decided to be good.

QUITE UNDERSTOOD.

How Two Worms Preserved Their Self Respect.

It was early in the morning. The park was almost deserted. Henpeck and Meekhen met.

"Sir, you are a second-rate!" said Meekhen.

Henpeck made no reply.

"Sir, you are an insignificant image of a monkey!" continued Meekhen.

Then he twinked Henpeck's nose.

Henpeck was still silent.

"You are a crawling worm, sir, and for two pins I would tear you asunder!" With these words Meekhen took Henpeck by the right and left whiskers and pulled in opposite directions until he grinned like a gargoyle.

"Stop!" cried a horrified spectator of the unprovoked assault. "I will not stand by and see a fellow creature used thus. Stop, sir, before I knock you down!"

Meekhen gave Henpeck a glance of withering contempt and walked away jauntily.

Henpeck turned to his preserver and spoke. "Sir, you must not interfere," he said meekly. "Allow me to explain. The gentleman who has just paged me is Mr. Meekhen, the only friend I have in all the world. We meet here at this time every morning as we go to business. Mrs. Meekhen has doubtless been particularly trying this morning. That is why he vents his wrath upon me. I do the same to him when Mrs. Henpeck is out of sorts. It's a little arrangement that exists between us, enabling us to retain our self respect. Without it we should cease to be men. But you must wait, sir, and I thank you. Good morning."

And Henpeck moved away slowly—T.T.B.

Musings of an Old Sport.

Some of us expect opportunity to bust in with a jimmie.

I've seen many an "outclassed" man win on his nerve.

The profit that we gather by experience may be only paper profit, but it's the solid asset.

It's odd how determinedly some of us condone our faults and defend our vices.

There are times when we'd honestly prefer to be chewed by the man whose "bark is worse than his bite."

When you have to resort to that "a man's a man for a' that" quotation you're apologizing.

Our idea of malt extract is the silly tears we shed when we reach the fool stage of self sympathy.

The man who "can take a drink or let it alone" usually sports those lambrquin effects at the bottom of the pantaloons.—New York Evening World.

Only Hors d'Oeuvres.

Some flirtations are mostly like salted almonds—they're pushed aside for the piece de resistance.

—Florida Times-Union.

Divinity and Humanity.

The first sight of Sheba's queen threw King Solomon into raptures. "Divine!" he murmured.

But before he committed himself definitely he caused his secret service men to do some investigating.

"Look," directed his majesty, "at the queen's throne—not her best throne, but the throne she uses every day. Especially the nooks and crannies—let no hook or cranny escape you."

The secret service men did even as they were bidden and came back to the king.

"Under the arm of the throne thid!" they succinctly reported, holding up a wad of gum. Solomon's face fell. "Human!" he sighed.—Puck.

Satisfied Her.

"And did you ever love any girl before you were introduced to me, Charles?" said the bride of a few months.

"Oh, yes," was the man's reply. "You did?"

"Sure! When I first saw you."—Yonkers Statesman.

Spring Harbingers.

"Noticed any robins in the parks as yet?"

"None in the parks and very few in the newspapers."—Washington Herald.

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An Ad.

"My wife having left my bed and board, this is to serve notice that I have four bushels of false hair, mostly brunette, that I will sell next Tuesday noon to the highest bidder."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The Test.

A man is pretty near boss in his own house when he can keep his wife from cleaning up his desk.—Detroit Free Press.

Fair Weather Friend.

Mr. A.—Jack has changed so since he lost all his money you will hardly recognize him.
Miss B.—Hardly recognize him? I shan't recognize him at all.—Boston Transcript.

Explained.

"More and more persons walk on the railroad tracks every year."
"Yes; the increasing mileage of good roads attracts the automobiles, and these drive pedestrians to the railroad tracks for safety."—Buffalo Express.

Looking Upward.

(In 1909)—Marie, bring out the aeroball and take baby up for an airing.—Judge.

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